

CRS Report for Congress

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Military Service Records and Unit Histories: A Guide to Locating Sources

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Summary

This report is a guide to locating individual service records and military unit histories from the American Revolution to the present. This guide provides referral information for locating individual service records of discharged and deceased veterans. It includes information regarding locating and obtaining active service records. Also included are relevant addresses and websites of government agencies, historical associations, and a select bibliography. This report will be updated as needed.

Active Duty Personnel

Air Force

U.S. Air Force Worldwide Locator
HQ AFPC/DPDXIDL
550 C Street, West, Suite 50
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4752

Tel: (210) 565-2660

[<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/IM/AFLocator&FOIA/afwwloc.htm>]

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

U.S. Air Force Worldwide Locator
Use the address given above.

Tel: (210) 652-5775

Army

Army World Wide Locator

As a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, other suspected terrorists' events, and ongoing and potential military action, the Department of the Army deemed it necessary to temporarily suspend its World Wide Locator service, except from users of Army Knowledge Online (AKO), until further notice.

[<http://www.erec.army.mil/wwl>]

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Army National Guard

Members may be located through the appropriate state adjutant general's office.

Coast Guard

Commander
Coast Guard Personnel Command
(CGPC-adm-3)
4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22203-1804
[<http://www.uscg.mil/locator.html>]

Tel: (202) 493-1697
Email: Glocator@Ballston.uscg.mil

Coast Guard Reserve

Use the address and telephone number above.

Marine Corps

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps
Personnel Management Support Branch (MMSB-17)
2008 Elliot Road
Quantico, VA 22314-5030
[<http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/ind.nsf/locator>]

Tel: (703) 784-3941

Marine Corps Reserve

Use the telephone number given but substitute (MMSB-10) in the address.

Marine Corps: Individual Ready Reserve, Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, or Inactive Reserve

Marine Corps Mobilization Command
15303 Andrews Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1207

Tel: (800) 255-5082

Navy

Naval Personnel Command (PERS-313C1)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-3130
[<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/questions/records.html>]

Tel: (901) 874-4885

Navy Active Reserve

Use the address and telephone number given above.

Navy Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive Reserve

Naval Reserve Personnel Command
4400 Dauphine Street
New Orleans, LA 70149-7800

Tel: (866) 250-4778

Discharged Personnel

Military Service and Pension Records

For military and pension records *prior to the 20th century*, contact:

National Archives and Records Administration
(NARA)
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408
[http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/veterans_service_records.html]

Tel: (301) 501-5385

For military records from *20th century* conflicts, contact:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
[http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/veterans_service_records.html]

Tel: (314) 801-0800
or (800) 318-5298

Military History Centers

Air Force

United States Air Force
Air Force Historical Studies Office
AF/HOH
Research and Analysis Division
3 Brookley Avenue, Box 94
Bolling AFB, DC 20032-5000

Tel: (202) 404-2264
Fax: (202) 404-2232
E-mail:
afhso.research@pentagon.af.mil
[<http://www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil>]

U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency
600 Chennault Circle
Building 1405
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

Tel: (334) 953-2395
Fax: (334) 953-7428
[<http://www.au.af.mil/au/afhra>]

U.S. Air Force Museum
1100 Spaatz Street
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Tel: (937) 255-3286
[<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum>]

Army

U.S. Army Center of Military History
Building 35
Collins Hall
103 Third Avenue
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Washington, DC 20319-5058

Tel: (202) 685-2733
[<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/default.htm>]

U.S. Army Military History Institute/
U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center
950 Soldiers Drive
Carlisle, PA 17013-5021

Tel: (717) 245-3611
[<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi>]

Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Room B-717
2100 Second Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593-0001

Tel: (202) 267-2596
[<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html>]

Coast Guard Museum
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-8511

Tel: (860) 444-8511
[<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/museum/MuseumInfo.html>]

Marine Corps

Marine Corps Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard, Building 58
1254 Charles Morris Street, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5040

Tel: (202) 433-3483
[http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/Home_Page.htm]

Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
2014 Anderson Avenue
Quantico, VA 22134-5002

Tel: (703) 784-2607
[http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/Home_Page.htm]

Merchant Marine

American Merchant Marine Museum
300 Steamboat Road
Barstow House
Kings Point, NY 11024

Tel: (516) 773-5515
[<http://www.usmma.edu/museum>]

Navy

Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard
805 Kidder Brees Street, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Tel: (202) 433-4882
[<http://www.history.navy.mil>]

Additional Sources for Research

Alternate Record Sources for Military Service Data, Personnel-Related Records, and Medical-Related Records at NARA
[http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/alternate_record_sources.html]

Repositories of Primary Sources; website from the University of Idaho
[<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>]

Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration
Nationwide Gravesite Locator
[<http://www.cem.va.gov>]

Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress
[<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets>]

CRS Reports

CRS Report RS20900, *D-Day and the French Jubilee of Liberty Medal*.

CRS Report RS21474, *Military Awards: Sources of Information*.

CRS Report RS21545, *Military Funeral Honors: Frequently Asked Questions*.

CRS Report 95-519, *Medal of Honor: History and Issues*.

CRS Report RL30011, *Medal of Honor Recipients: 1979-2005*.

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- . *Vietnam Order of Battle*. New York: Galahad Books, 1986.
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- U.S. Naval War Records Office. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. Harrisburg, PA: National Historical Society, 1987. 30 v.
- U.S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington: GPO, 1880-1901. 70 v.